

## This weeks **MEMORY VERSE!**

To learn it well, **READ** it, or **WRITE** it **EACH DAY** after your lesson! Then say it to someone you know!

**John 14:6**

**"I (*Jesus*) am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**

What 3 things does Jesus say He is? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How can you get to the Father? \_\_\_\_\_

\* Italic added



Print TRUE or FALSE on the line after each statement.

1. Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Jesus did not see Zacchaeus. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Jesus called Zacchaeus by name. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Jesus Changes Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1-10



©1997 by Gospel Light. • Permission to photocopy granted. • Bible-Story Coloring Pages • 143



MI Bible Clubs  
2012 28th St. S.E.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49508  
616-457-3840



Visit [BibleClubKids.com](http://BibleClubKids.com)  
to listen to this lesson.  
[bit.ly/Way-Truth-Life](http://bit.ly/Way-Truth-Life)

One time word reached the city of Jericho that Jesus was coming. The people of Jericho had heard about Him, and many were eager to see and hear Him.

All the land of Palestine was under the rule of the Roman emperor. The Jewish people hated having to pay taxes to the Roman government, and they hated the Roman rulers.

Some of the Jewish people took jobs of collecting the Roman taxes. Many of them were not honest and took more money in taxes than they should have. Then they kept this money for themselves.

There was a man living in Jericho who was the chief tax collector; he was in charge of all the other tax collectors. His name was Zacchaeus and he was a very rich man. He got rich by charging people more than he should have for their taxes. The Jews considered Zacchaeus a traitor because he worked for the Roman government. They would not have been friendly to him, and they wouldn't have trusted him.

Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was coming to Jericho. He had heard much about Jesus. He wanted to see Jesus for himself.

As the crowds began to gather in the streets to welcome Jesus and His disciples, Zacchaeus was among them. But the crowd was so large that Zacchaeus could not get to where he could see Jesus. Zacchaeus was such a short man that he could not see over the heads of the people. He could not get anywhere near Jesus; he could not even get a glimpse of him!

Zacchaeus was so anxious to see Jesus that he wouldn't give up. Finally, he thought of a plan. He managed to get ahead of the crowd, and he ran out of the city. He knew of a big sycamore tree right beside the road where Jesus and the crowd would pass. He thought, "I can just climb that big tree and sit where no one will see me. Then I can see what Jesus is like and watch what He does, but He will not even know I am there." So, Zacchaeus quickly climbed the tree and sat there and waited.

From his seat in the tree Zacchaeus could watch the people coming with Jesus and his disciples. As they came down the road Zacchaeus watched their every move and listened to every word that Jesus was saying. Then, when they came right under the branches of the big sycamore tree where Zacchaeus sat, Jesus stopped. Jesus looked up into the tree and called, "Zacchaeus!"

Zacchaeus had wanted to see who Jesus was, but he did not think that Jesus knew anything about him. But since Jesus is God, He knew all about Zacchaeus.

Then Jesus continued, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; I am going to your house today." Zacchaeus could not get down out of the tree fast enough.

When Zacchaeus looked into Jesus' face, he saw acceptance and forgiveness. He understood that Jesus loved him despite all his pride and sinfulness. The Bible tells us that Zacchaeus welcomed Jesus joyfully.

In the crowd that followed Jesus there were always some who did not love Him. They were there only to criticize. When they saw Jesus leaving with Zacchaeus to go to his house, they said to each other, "Look at that! He is going to the home of a sinner!" Zacchaeus heard this. He knew that he was a sinner. But he knew that something new and wonderful had come into his life, and he did not want to have anything to do with his old life of sin.

Zacchaeus said to Jesus, "Lord, I will give half of everything I have to the poor, and if I have taken any money from anybody dishonestly, I'll give back four times as much as I took."

Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house. The Son of Man has come to find lost people and save them."

Jesus went home with Zacchaeus, probably to have supper and visit with him. No doubt Zacchaeus asked many questions, and Jesus taught him many things.

Zacchaeus is a good example of those whose lives are changed when they receive Jesus as their Savior. It was Jesus who changed Zacchaeus and helped him to do what was right.

What about you? Have you received Jesus as your Savior? Have you allowed Jesus to change you? When you realize you are a sinner who deserves to be punished by God and believe that Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for your sin, you will be saved. Jesus will give you eternal life, and you can look forward to being with Him in heaven one day.